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HHS Launches Cities Readiness Initiative

A coalition of federal agencies led by the Department of Health and Human Services today announced a new plan aimed at further enhancing the nation's ability to respond to public health emergencies. The plan involves an 8-month pilot program that will focus on preparing 21 cities across the United States to quickly dispense medical supplies that may be needed in response to a terrorist attack or other large-scale public health emergency.

The purpose of the planned Cities Readiness Initiative is to increase cities' capacity to quickly dispense medical supplies, thereby unifying the Federal, State, and Local response plans in the event of a major public health emergency.

Using population and location as a guide, 21 cities have been chosen to receive assistance. Those cities are:

Atlanta, GA	Houston, TX	Phoenix, AZ
Boston, MA	Las Vegas, NV	Pittsburg, PA
Chicago, IL	Los Angeles, CA	St. Louis, MO
Cleveland, OH	Miami, FL	San Diego, CA
Dallas, TX	Minneapolis, MN	San Francisco, CA
Denver, CO	New York, NY	Seattle, WA
Detroit, MI	Philadelphia, PA	Washington, DC (NCR)

The Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) is the lead agency for the government coalition that includes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the United States Postal Service (USPS).

For more information on CRI visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/cri>

##This Message was distributed to State and Local Health Officers, Public Information Officers, Laboratory Directors, Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinators, Epidemiologists and HAN Coordinators as well as Clinician organizations##

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